

Lakeview Hill Picnic Area, near the sledging hill, at the Black Locust group camping area and by the Union School Interpretive Center. Weldon Springs' forest is dominated by hardwoods such as oak, hickory, walnut, maple, ash, hackberry, sweetgum, sycamore, black locust and honey locust. Wildflower fanciers will find spring beauties, violets, red trillium and Dutchman's breeches. Patches of native tallgrass prairie can be seen in the park's southeast corner, near the sledging hill, at the Black Locust group camping area and by the Union School Interpretive Center.

Trails

Lakeview Trail circles the lake, winding for 2 miles through riparian habitat where the forest and lake communities meet. Certainly the most popular hiking trail, Lakeside is well-shaded during the warmer months. Watch for shorebirds and waterfowl, migrating warblers, dragonflies, and riparian mammals such as mink, muskrat and beaver. Rubby-throated hummingbirds are frequently seen visiting spotted jewelweed flowers in the marshy areas in August and September. With a series of stairways and footbridges to negotiate, it is the toughest trail to hike, but is especially scenic.

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The Natural Scene

More than a museum, Union School is a hands-on learning center emphasizing science and local history with a "please touch" philosophy. Included in the center is a collection of taxidermy mammals, representative of those making their homes in the park, that encourages visitors to pet a squirrel's tail, feel a badger's claws or examine beaver's teeth. The Texas Township Community Building was moved to the prairie in 1995 and serves as the interpreter's office. The Town Hall houses collections of bird nests, rocks and minerals, muskats, foxes, coyotes and groundhogs, as well as chipmunks and squirrels. Bird species include songbirds, hawks and owls and, occasionally, bald eagles.

often test their strength on the schoolhouse lawn by pulling on the big bell rope. An interpreter is available for talks, programs and activities to enhance the visitors' experience year-round.

For the Disabled

Virtually every part of the park is available to people with physical disabilities. In addition to the Red Pine Amphitheater, the fishing pier and accessible campsites, disabled visitors will find a shelter, fishing dock and handicapped-accessible toilets in the Lakeview Hill Picnic Area. They'll also find accessible toilets at the east dam turn-around, Meadowview Picnic Area and the boat ramp. A pull-off area and observation deck are located at the turn-around area on the east side of the dam.

Veterans Point

Veterans Point honors all veterans for the sacrifices they have made, are making, and will make in order to secure our freedom. Twenty tons of granite honor and memorialize fifteen hundred veterans from at least twenty-five states. A footing along the Veterans Point walkway accommodates the addition of memorials in perpetuity.



Fifty "Flags of Freedom" are flown on Memorial Day, July 4, Flag Day, Labor Day, Patriots Day, Veterans Day and Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day. "Freedom is not Free" is inscribed on the base of the sculpture created by Marianne Caroselli of Far Oaks, Texas. At a cost of more than \$150,000, Veterans Point was completed after four years of planning and construction. Black granite recognizes supporters of Veterans Point in honor or memory of loved ones.

Directions

From the traffic light south of Clinton on U.S. Route 51, follow the signs three miles to the east, or from east of Clinton on Illinois Route 10, go to the park sign, turn south and follow the signs two miles to the park.

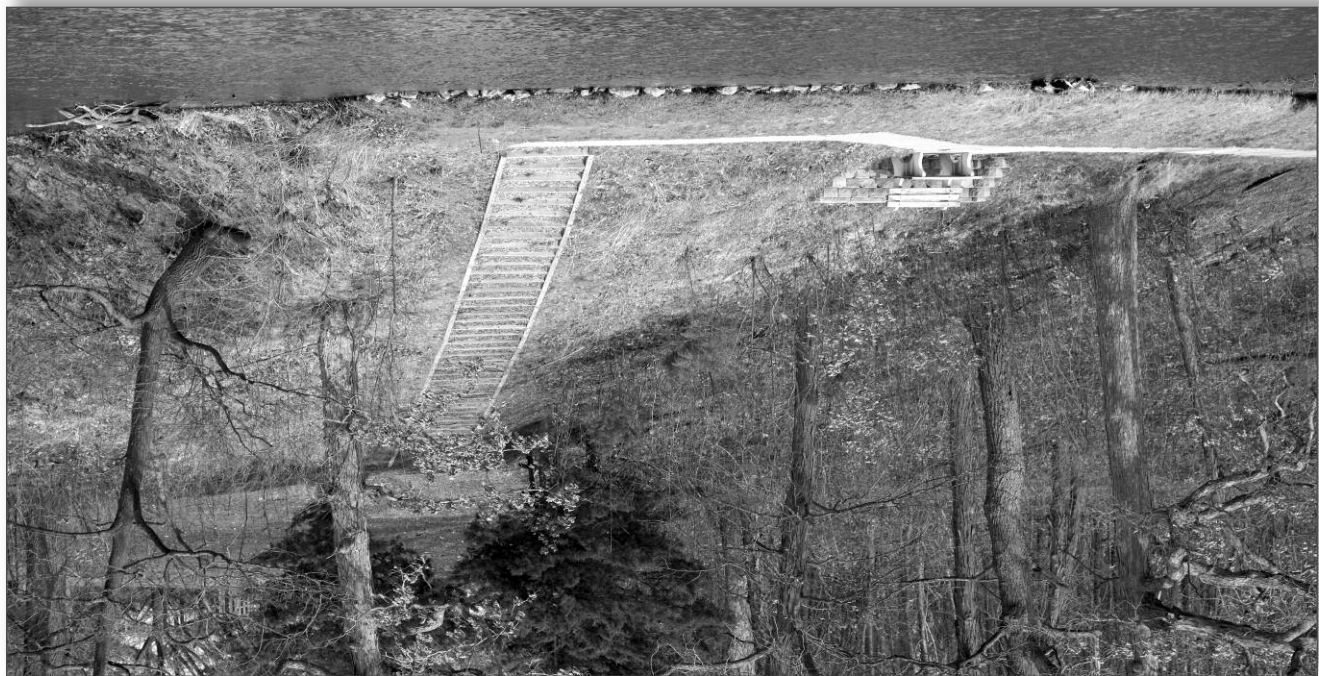
Weldon Springs Foundation

With individual dues of \$10 per year, the Weldon Springs Foundation Inc. supports park projects and programs with gifts of time, talent and funding. The Department of Natural Resources thanks the Foundation and all volunteers for their support.

The spring water has a very shallow source located above the elevation of the springs. Rainfall and snow melt that seeped into the ground about 2,000 years ago, has migrated about one mile through layers of sand and gravel before emerging at the springs. This thick deposit of silty sand and gravel was left by a continental-size glacier that covered the Clinton area 10,000-25,000 years ago. The water in the lake and Salt Creek are constantly fed by the same source that feeds the springs.

The Springs

"moral elevation" of the participants, who paid \$1.50 for a season ticket. As many as 325 families camped for the entire term, enjoying the opportunity to socialize with their neighbors. Following the Chautauqua's demise, the site passed to the city of Clinton through a bequest of the Weldon family in 1936 and became a state park in 1955. It is managed by the Department of Natural Resources.



Weldon Springs State Park
4734 Weldon Springs Road
Clinton, IL 61727, (217) 935-2644

- While groups of 25 or more are welcome and encouraged to use the park's facilities, they are required to register in advance with the site office to avoid crowding or scheduling conflicts.
- At least one responsible adult must accompany each group of 15 minors.
- Pets must be kept on leashes at all times.
- Actions by nature can result in closed roads and other facilities. We hope you enjoy your stay. Remember, take only memories, leave only footprints.
- For more information on state parks, write to the Department of Natural Resources, Office of Land Management, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271, or visit our website at www.dnr.state.il.us.
- For more information on tourism in Illinois, call the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity's Bureau of Tourism at 1-800-2CONNECT.
- Hearing-impaired individuals may call the Department of Natural Resources' TTY number, (217) 782-9175, or use the Ameritech Relay Number, 1-800-526-0844.

Equal opportunity to participate in programs of the Illinois Department of Natural Resources (IDNR) and those funded by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and other agencies is available to all individuals regardless of race, sex, national origin, disability, age, religion or other non-merit factors. If you believe you have been discriminated against, contact the funding sources civil rights office and/or the Equal Employment Opportunity Officer, IDNR, One Natural Resources Way, Springfield, IL 62702-1271; 217/785-0067; TTY 217/782-9175.



For 10 days each summer, area residents gathered at the site to hear some of the best public speakers and entertainers of the day. Among the most popular speakers were William Jennings Bryan, evangelist Sam Jones, the Reverend Billy Sunday, Helen Keller and Carrie Nation. Representing varied fields of interest, programs were presented for the enjoyment, education and

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History

A 550-acre park for all seasons, Weldon Springs State Park is situated southeast of Clinton in DeWitt County. Its recreational agenda is among the most comprehensive in the state park system, offering outdoor opportunities year-round. During the milder seasons, you are invited to fish, boat, picnic, camp, hike and view wildlife. When the snow flies, harder outdoor enthusiasts add sledging and tobogganing on a one-eighth mile hill plus ice fishing and cross-country skiing to their itineraries.

Weldon Springs State Park



State of Illinois
Department of Natural Resources



Weldon Springs

STATE PARK





Whitetail Ski Trail quickly drops into the bottomlands of Salt Creek. Birders should watch for migrating warblers, wild turkeys, eastern bluebirds, herons, hawks and owls. On this trail, the oaks and hickories of the upland forest give way to silver maple, sycamore and hackberry and the hustle and bustle of the picnic areas around the lake give way to peaceful solitude. This 3-mile long trail may be flooded in spring.



Salt Creek Backpack Trail provides six sites along its route for those who prefer a more rustic setting for camping. Campers may hear the evening serenades of coyotes as well as great-horned, barred and screech owls. Wild turkey, white-tailed deer, beaver, muskrat and mink are frequently seen along this trail. Backpackers are asked to register at the campground before heading out.

Schoolhouse Trail began as a loop of the park's eastern bluebird nest box trail. Eastern bluebirds can be observed from late February through October. Circling the native prairie restoration project, walkers may observe a succession of blossoms. Watch for spiderwort, lance-leaf coreopsis, purple coneflower, compass

plant, indigo, rattlesnake master, blazing star, bergamot, gray coneflower, compass plant, prairie dock, New England and New York asters, and goldenrod, to name a few. Big bluestem and Indian grass may reach heights of six to ten feet by September.

More than thirty butterfly species have been identified among the prairie flowers and a variety of dragonfly species cruise overhead. Listen for dickcissels, common yellowthroats, field sparrows and indigo buntings along this trail. A small wetland near the east end of the trail hosts a succession of frogs and toads through the warmer months as well as an occasional smallmouth salamander.

Old Farm Trail traverses forty acres of the original Weldon Farm. Old buildings, natural springs and abundant wildlife await the more adventurous hiker. Cundiff Cemetery, dating back to the mid-1800s, lies on a ridge amidst a hickory grove. A magnificent venerable white oak with a huge, spreading crown awaits discovery. Rare Henslow's sparrows, bobolinks, eastern meadowlarks, bobwhite quail and ring-necked pheasants inhabit the grasslands.

All of the trails are routed through excellent wildlife habitat. None of them are open to horseback riding or snowmobiling. Please pack out all trash so others may enjoy their pristine beauty.

Camping

Named by Family Circle magazine to be one of the "Top Twenty Campgrounds in America," Weldon Springs' campground offers a quiet and friendly atmosphere for a relaxing camping experience.

The Class A campground has 75 camping sites with electricity, water service, vehicular access, a sanitary dumping station for camping trailers, a shower building, cooking grills, picnic tables, pit toilets and playground equipment. Areas for tent, backpack, large-group and youth camping also are available. Primitive backpack camping sites are located along Salt Creek. Call ahead for conditions, as the backpack sites could flood during the spring.

Disabled campers also are served. Three campsites designed for special needs offer a hard-surfaced pad. Privies and water are easily accessible.

Alcohol is prohibited in the tent area, group camps, and the backpack sites.

Picnicking

In addition to eight large picnic areas, six of which have shelters, the picnic enthusiast will find small groups of tables at a number of locations throughout the park. Cooking grills or fire rings, water hydrants, toilet facilities and parking spaces are available at each picnic ground. Most of the large picnic areas also have electrical service and playground equipment. All six shelters are available on a reservation basis through www.reserveamerica.com. Sand volleyball courts are located at White Oaks Picnic Area, Lookout Point, and Meadowview.

Fishing

A 29-acre, spring-fed lake, which ranges in depth from 5 to 28 feet, features 2 miles of shoreline dotted with bank fishing platforms and a boat launching ramp. The fish population boasts sizeable largemouth bass, catfish, bullhead, crappie, bluegill and sunfish. There are size and catch limits for some species, and only electric boat motors may be used.

Amphitheaters

The park has two outdoor amphitheaters, Lone Oak and Red Pine, which can be used for plays, weddings, movies and other programs. Both are positioned on wooded hillsides. Lone Oak, the more remote of the two structures, will accommodate groups of up to 60 people. Red Pine is accessible to physically disabled visitors. Both amphitheaters can be reserved.

